

ALBIO SIRES

13TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

EUROPE AND EURASIA

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIRES](http://www.house.gov/sires)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3013

April 7, 2011

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to express my support for expanding the role of travelers information stations (TIS) beyond noncommercial information of interest to travelers to include the broadcast of Amber alerts, public health warnings, terror threat levels, weather reports, and other helpful information.

The 1,500 TIS operating nationwide have proven to be reliable resources for motorists seeking information and updates on traffic congestion and accidents. They are a valuable public asset and offer a key opportunity to transmit to the traveling public an even wider array of safety information that could further protect travelers' wellbeing and even lives. Unfortunately, current rules regarding these stations are severely limiting the public safety content allowed on the stations.

TIS are a particularly critical resource to my District, as it represents one the most highly travelled through urban areas in the country. In addition, my District has been said to contain the most dangerous stretch of two miles in the country due to the number of at-risk sites.

Recognizing their significance to my community, and the vital importance of additional safety threats such as Amber Alerts, National Weather Service announcements, and 9-1-1 outages, I strongly encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to expand its current TIS rules to better adapt to the overall safety needs of my constituents and citizens nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Albio Sires
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Albio Sires
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter supporting the expansion of the role of travelers information stations (TIS) to include the broadcast of Amber alerts, public health warnings, terror threat levels, weather reports, and other helpful information. This is an important issue and I appreciate your contribution to the discussion.

As you may know, in December, the Commission adopted an Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that seeks public comment on whether the role of travelers information stations (TIS) should be expanded in the manner you suggest. The Order and NPRM comes as a direct result from petitions filed by the Highway Information Systems, Inc. (HIS), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the American Association of Information Radio Operators (AAIRO). That order requested that the FCC expand the role of TIS nationwide by allowing regional broadcasts of more types of potential life-saving emergency information to travelers.

Generally, the Order and NPRM seeks public comment on whether the FCC should significantly expand the scope of permitted communications and alerts by local governments on TIS stations and what limits if, in any, should be placed on those noncommercial messages. The FCC is also seeking comment on whether TIS power limits should be modified to reach a larger listening audience in their coverage area and to what extent TIS broadcast locations should be expanded without resulting in harmful interference to the communications of other licensed broadcasters.

The comment cycle on this matter concluded in March and the Commission's staff is currently reviewing the record. We are committed to working through these issues expeditiously as we consider these proposed changes to Commission policy and rules governing TIS.

I welcome your continued interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski